

CALGARY Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan December 7, 2015

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Bryan Labby.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).





Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan prepared by Kathleen Hall, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: ARE YOU A CALGARIAN — OR DO YOU JUST LIVE HERE?



Photo Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgarian-fakin-it-calgary-at-a-crossroads-1.3340478

WARM UP

When people ask where you are from, do you tell them where you came from, or where you live now?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Study the terms and synonyms in the table below. Try to remember as many of the terms from the left of the table as you can.

Terms	Synonyms
opportunities	openings/chances
workforce	workers/employees
who they are	self-perception/self-awareness
pulled together	united/cooperated/teamed up
vista	view/scene/panorama
skyline	horizon/city scene
backdrop	setting/surroundings/framework
laid off	jobless/out of work/let go
extent	amount/level
relationships	connections/acquaintances
culture	society/civilization
theory	idea/philosophy
civic	community/city
investment	engagement/concern

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Match the terms in Vocabulary Activity 1 with the definitions below.

Term	Definition	
	attitudes, customs, and beliefs that define a group of people	
	ideas meant to explain things	
	level of participation in a community	
	duties and activities for a town, city, or local area.	
	the way in which people are connected	
	the amount to which something is done	
	a pleasing view	
	end of employment because there is not enough work	
	people who work in an area, company or industry	
	work together to do something	
	an outline buildings against the sky	
	a chance for employment or promotion	
	provide a background or setting	
	how one sees or defines oneself	

(See answer key)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Listen to Newscast 1 for overall comprehension. Use the following questions to help you:

•	
1.	Why did many people come to live in Calgary?
2.	What event made people realize they were proud to call Calgary home?
3.	Other people identified with the vista of the against the backdrop of the
4.	What is Cara MacInnis' job?
5.	What does Cara MacInnis say it is important to build?
6.	What does Shannon Murray teach?

(See answer key)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Listen to Newscast 1 again and fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

Many people came to live in Calgary because of the employment ________. Now that the city's ________ is shrinking, CBC asked Calgarians if they just live here, or if Calgary was a part of _______ they ______.

Some people recognized that they were proud to call Calgary home during the flood of 2013 when the city _______ together to help one another. Others said that the _______ of the downtown ______ against the ______ of the mountains made it clear to them that Calgary was home. And there were those who decided to stay in Calgary even after having been _______.

Cara MacInnis, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary, says that what "is important is the ______ to which you make friends or build ______ with people in the city," adding "then...you start to feel you belong to this group."

(See answer key)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do you think it is important to feel that you belong in the community and city where you live? What can you do to become a member of the community?

Does feeling that you are home in your new country mean leaving your previous culture behind?

Dr. Shannon Murray, who teaches ______ theory at the University of Calgary,

believes that, "Once you say, 'Calgary is my home,' there is a greater civic

NEWSCAST 2: MINI-RECESSION ENDS AS GROWTH TURNS POSITIVE, BUT SIGNS OF WEAKNESS REAPPEAR

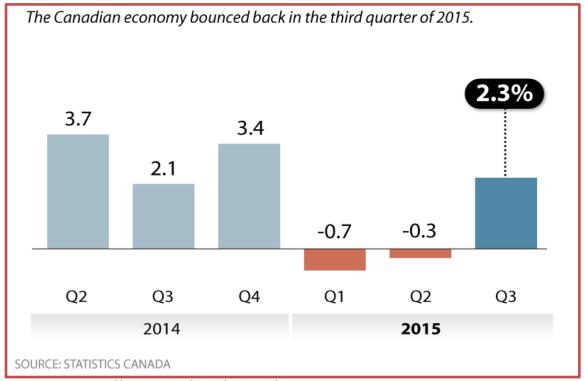


Photo Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canadian-economy-gdp-1.3344905

WARM UP

Look at the bar graph above. What does it tell you about the Canadian economy in 2015?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Listen to Newscast 2 for overall comprehension, and respond to the following question when you have finished listening.

How much of the newscast did you understand? None Some Most All

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Before you listen to Newscast 2 again, study the words in the box below. While you listen to Newscast 2 again, put a checkmark (\checkmark) next to the words when you hear them.

Words	/	Words	/
statistics		market	
recession		household	
hit		relatively	
recovery		third quarter	
robust		economist	
exports		struggling	
expensive		adapt	
foreign		decline	

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Study the vocabulary from the newscast and their synonyms or meanings in the table below. Circle the synonyms that you understand.

VOCABULARY	SYNONYMS and MEANINGS
Statistics Canada/Stats Can	Canada's National Statistics Agency
statistics	data/information
recession	a period of temporary economic decline
hit	affect/afflict
recovery	rescue/upturn
robust	strong/healthy
exports	trades/sell abroad; overseas
expensive	costly/pricey
foreign	overseas/cross-border
market	all the buyers and sellers interested in a product
household	home/domestic
relatively	rather/reasonably
third quarter	a three-month financial period; usually July-September
economist	an expert in economics, money and finance
struggling	trying/making a great effort
adapt	adjust/change
decline	weakening/drop/fall

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Instructions: Now that you have studied the words that you heard in Listening Activity 2, listen to Newscast 2 again, and respond to the following questions:

How important is understanding the vocabulary to your overall comprehension of the story? Not Important Somewhat Important Very Important

LISTENING ACTIVITY 4

Instructions: Listen to Newscast 2 again and fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

	reported on Wednesday that the	
	that	
in the first half of 2015. But the _	may not be v	/ery
Stats Can reported increases in _	due to a low	Canadian dollar that makes
Canadian products less	in foreign	There was also
growth in	spending.	
	Pratto advises that, "There is good re	
ctrong c	growth of the third	
	at LICDC Dank Canada war	rns that "We continue to see
David Watt, chief	at nobe ballk callada, wal	institut, we continue to see

NEWSCAST 3: UN FINDS ADOLESCENT AIDS RATES UP ALARMINGLY



Photo Source: http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/adolescent-aids-rates-up-alarmingly-un-finds-1.2444987

WARM UP

What do you know about HIV/AIDS? Is it a concern where you live?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

To understand Newscast 3, it is important to understand, not only the acronyms or abbreviations used, but also what the organization and diseases the acronyms really mean.

Instructions: Think about what you already know about UNICEF, AIDS, and HIV. Look at the explanations of UNICEF, AIDS, and HIV in the table below. Then, write definitions in your own words in the space provided:

UNICEF	An international organization that works	
United Nations Children's Fund	for children's rights, survival,	
	development, and protection.	
AIDS	A life-threatening disease caused by HIV	
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	damage to the immune system so that the	
	body cannot fight viruses or diseases.	
HIV	A virus that damages to the immune	
Human Immunodeficiency Virus	system and affects the body's ability to	
	fight illness. If left untreated, HIV can lead	
	to the disease AIDS.	

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Look at the terms in the table below. Circle the synonyms that you understand.

Term	Synonyms	
significantly	a lot / much / dramatically	
infections	diseases / illnesses / contagions	
by half	by 50% / by ½	
halve	reduce by 50% / reduce by ½	
transmission	spread / transfer	
noticeably	clearly / visibly	
prevented	stopped / avoided	
income	revenue / pay	
treatment	cure / medication	
effectively	successfully / really well	
treat	care for / heal	
vulnerable	weak / at risk / helpless	
adolescents	teenagers / youth	

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 3

Instructions: Use the best term from the left of the table below to complete the following sentences:

Term	Sentences		
significantly	The invention of vaccines has		
prevented	the of		
transmission			
infections			
by half	Due to the recession, the store's dropped		
income	There were 10		
noticeably	employees under the age of 18. Now there are 5. The number of		
adolescent	teenage employees has decreased		
treatment	Because seniors are to colds and flu,		
effectively	doctors recommend a flu shot as an effective		
treat	for older patients. There is really no		
vulnerable	medicine to the		
	common cold.		

(See answer key)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen for the following numbers in Newscast 3, and put a checkmark (\checkmark) to show if the number is part of an age range or a year.

NUMBER	AGE	YEAR
10		
12		
19		
20		

(See answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS: PRONUNCIATION OF PLURAL AND THIRD-PERSON SINGULAR PRESENT SIMPLE VERB ENDINGS

Plurals and present simple verbs that agree with 3rd person singular nouns and pronouns (she, he, and it, for example) end in "s" or "es". Other language speakers may be confused because the s ending makes three different sounds: s; z; or Iz (as in is).

If words end in an s or z sound, the plural ending or a third-person singular verb ending is spelt "es" and sounds /Iz/. Sounds like s and z are called sibilant sounds.

Sibilants are often described as sounds that hiss like a snake.

Others say sibilants make a whistling sound

Words that end in sibilant sounds have an **es** spelling and an **/Iz/** sounding ending.

When we look up words in the dictionary, we see pronunciation in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), which is used to show the difference between sounds and spelling.

The chart below shows the sibilant sounds with the IPA symbol, and examples.

Sibilant Sounds		
VOICED	UNVOICED	
Z (bu <u>zz</u>)	S bu <u>s</u>	
ძჳ (ju <u>dg</u> e)	t∫ (<u>ch</u> ur <u>ch</u>)	
3 (plea <u>su</u> re)	∫ (di <u>sh</u>)	

Let's look at examples using the words in the chart above:

The beehive buzzes with activity every day. Pronounced: /bAZIZ/

There are two busses on the corner. Pronounced: /bnsiz/

She judges the contest every year. Pronounced: /dʒʌdʒɪz/

There are seven churches in the small village. Pronounced: /t[\rt[IZ/

He washes the dishes every night. Pronounced: /wa:[IZ/ and /dI [IZ/

(notice the change in spelling of bus because of the short u sound $/\Lambda$)

/3 /is a sibilant sound. English words do not end in the /3/ sound. So we will not be seeing that sound in this lesson.

When words do not end in a sibilant sound, plurals and present simple third person verbs end with an **s** or **z** sound.

If you studied the language focus from Learning English with the CBC on November 30, 2015 (last week), you know that you do not have to memorize lists of words that end in s or z sound. There is an easy way to know which sound the 3rd person verb or plural noun ends in—whether or not the word ends in a sound that vibrates (like a cell phone on vibrate 🕷

If your throat/vocal cords vibrate when you pronounce the last sound of the verb, or plural noun, the past verb ends with a z sound.

If your throat/vocal cords do not vibrate when you pronounce the last sound in the verb or plural noun, the past verb ends in an **s** sound.

There are two easy ways to tell if your vocal cords are vibrating.

Technique 1: The first, which is much easier to do in public, is to <u>place your thumb on one side of</u> your windpipe, and your fingers on the other.



Say the sound. If your fingers feel a vibration, your vocal cords are vibrating. If you do not feel a vibration, your vocal cords are not vibrating.

Technique 2: You can also <u>put your hands over your ears</u>.



Say the sound. If you feel a vibration, your vocal cords are vibrating. If you do not feel a vibration, your vocal cords are not vibrating.

Sounds that vibrate in your vocal cords are called **VOICED** sounds. Sounds that do not vibrate in your vocal cords are **UNVOICED** sounds. **VOICED** endings stay **VOICED**. **UNVOICED** endings stay **UNVOICED**.

ALL VOWEL SOUNDS ARE VOICED.

There might be a problem if you are pronouncing the sound incorrectly, so knowing if a consonant sound is voiced or unvoiced will also help you pronounce it correctly.

Most **VOICED** and **UNVOICED** consonants are in pairs. They have a partner that is pronounced with the tongue, the teeth, and the lips in the same place, but the **VOICED** sound vibrates in the vocal cords, and the **UNVOICED** sound does not.

See the **VOICED** and **UNVOICED** pairs in the tables below. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is used to show the difference between sounds and spelling. We will just look at the IPA symbols we need to know for this lesson.

VOICED	UNVOICED
b	р
d	t
V	f
g	1
Z	S

Nasal VOICED Sounds			
m Vibration is			
n	felt strongly in		
ŋ (ng) si <u>ng</u>	(ng) sing the nose		
Diagraphs			
VOICED UNVOICED			
ð (ba <u>the</u>) Θ (ba <u>th</u>)			
Diagraphs are single sounds			
made by two letters.			

Liquid VOICED sounds				
1	Vibration is felt			
	strongly higher			
	in the throat			
	and lower lip			
r	Vibration is felt			
	strongly lower			
	in the throat			

Remember, in pronunciation, pay attention to the sound, not the spelling. For example, words ending in \mathbf{w} and \mathbf{y} will have vowel sounds. All vowels are **VOICED**. Verbs ending in \mathbf{h} do not have an \mathbf{h} sound. They can sound $\mathbf{ff} / \mathbf{t} / \mathbf{f} / \mathbf{f}$.

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 1

Instructions: Practice saying all of the sounds in the boxes above using one of the techniques pictured.

Can you feel the difference between the **VOICED** and **UNVOICED** sounds when you say them? If not, practice pushing more air out of your mouth for the **UNVOICED** sounds. Hold a thin piece of paper in front of your mouth and try to make the paper move when pronouncing **UNVOICED** sounds.

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 2

Instructions: Put the correct pronunciation of the **s** ending: **s**; **z**; or **Iz** next to the verbs in the box below. Examples of each are done for you. (Pay attention to sound, not spelling).

s; z; or Iz	VERB	s; z; or Iz	VERB	s; z; or Iz	VERB
S	calls	Z	decides	Iz	kisses
	annoys		continues		acknowledges
	arrives		applies		kicks
	abolishes		approaches		finishes
	borrows		outweighs		triumphs
	camps		dies		learns
	changes		dislikes		lies
	cheats		finishes		lifts
	clicks		graduates		likes
	closes		hates		lives
	marries		helps		laughs
	moves		plans		looks
	opens		presses		loves
	passes		pushes		remembers
	employs		interviews		jumps

s; z; or Iz	VERB	s; z; or Iz	VERB	s; z; or Iz	VERB
	shows		stays		returns
	slips		stops		succeeds
	starts		studies		switches
	tries		uses		talked
	turns		visits		walks
	works		waits		wants
	yells		zips		watches
	reviews		massages		zooms

(See answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 3

Instructions: Now practice pronouncing the verbs in the table above with the correct **s** or **es** ending. Use the techniques to be sure you are saying each verb correctly.

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 4

Instructions: Listen to Newscast 3 again and mark which sound you hear: **s**; **z**; or **Iz** for the endings underlined.

The United Nation()Children()Fund is alarmed that AID()-related deaths among 10 to 19 year old() has increased significantly over the last seven year().
There is some good new(), however; UNICEF has found that HIV infection() among infant()have dropped by half since 2012 because mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been noticeably reduced and even prevented in low- and middle-income countrie(). A new treatment known as Option B+ effectively treat() women with HIV and prevent()the transmission of the virus to their babie() during pregnancy, delivery, and through breastfeeding.
With the success of the Option B+ treatment, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake believe() that by "reaching the most vulnerable adolescent() with effective program(), we can halve the number of new infection() among adolescent()by 2020."
(See answer key)

CBC CALGARY TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Bryan Labby. You're listening to Learning English	0:00
mer odd detron	with CBC for the week of December 7 th .	0.00
Newscast 1	Many people came to live in Calgary because of the	0:07
Newseast 1	employment opportunities. Now that the city's workforce is	0.07
Are you a	shrinking, CBC asked Calgarians if they just live here, or if	
Calgarian — or	Calgary was a part of who they are.	
do you just live	Caigary was a part of who they are.	
here?	Some people recognized that they were proud to call Calgary home during the flood of 2013 when the city pulled together to help one another. Others said that the vista of the downtown skyline against the backdrop of the mountains made it clear to them that Calgary was home.	
	And there were those who decided to stay in Calgary even after having been laid off. Cara MacInnis, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary, says that what "is important is the extent to which you make friends or build relationships with people in the city," adding "thenyou start to feel you belong to this group." Dr. Shannon Murray, who teaches culture theory at the	
	University of Calgary, believes that, "Once you say, 'Calgary is my home,' there is a greater civic investment."	
Mini-recession ends as growth	Statistics Canada reported on Wednesday that the economy is growing again, ending the mild recession that hit the country in the first half of 2015. But the recovery may not be very robust.	1:10
turns positive, but signs of weakness reappear	Stats Can reported increases in exports due to a low Canadian dollar that makes Canadian products less expensive in foreign markets. There was also growth in household spending.	
	But TD Bank economist Brian DePratto advises that, "There is good reason to believe that the relatively strong growth of the third quarter will not be repeated." David Watt, chief economist at HSBC Bank Canada, warns that, "We continue to see an economy struggling to adapt	
	to the decline in oil prices."	

		•			
Newscast 3	The United Nations Children's Fund is alarmed that AIDS-related deaths among 10 to 19 year olds has increased	2:01			
LINI finada	,				
UN finds	significantly over the last seven years.				
adolescent					
AIDS rates up	There is some good news, however; UNICEF has found that				
alarmingly	HIV infections among infants have dropped by half since				
	2012 because mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been				
	noticeably reduced and even prevented in low- and middle-				
	income countries. A new treatment known as Option B+				
	effectively treats women with HIV and prevents the				
	transmission of the virus to their babies during pregnancy,				
	delivery, and through breastfeeding.				
	With the success of the Option B+ treatment, UNICEF				
	•				
	Executive Director Anthony Lake believes that by "reaching				
	the most vulnerable adolescents with effective programs,				
	we can halve the number of new infections among				
	adolescents by 2020."				
	1	l .			

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1 ARE YOU A CALGARIAN — OR DO YOU JUST LIVE HERE?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Term	Definition
culture	attitudes, customs, and beliefs that define a group of people
theory	ideas meant to explain things
investment	level of participation in a community
civic	duties and activities for a town, city, or local area.
relationships	the way in which people are connected
extent	the amount to which something is done
vista	a pleasing view
laid off	end of employment because there is not enough work
workforce	people who work in an area, company or industry
pulled together	work together to do something
skyline	an outline buildings against the sky
opportunities	a chance for employment or promotion
backdrop	provide a background or setting
who they are	how one sees or defines oneself

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

- 1. Why did many people come to live in Calgary? employment opportunities
- 2. What event made people realize they were proud to call Calgary home? The flood of 2013
- 3. Other people identified with the vista of the skyline against the backdrop of the mountains.
- 4. What is Cara MacInnis' job? assistant professor at the University of Calgary
- 5. What does Cara MacInnis say it is important to build? relationships with people in the city
- 6. What does Shannon Murray Teach? Culture Theory

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Many people came to live in Calgary because of the employment <u>opportunities</u>. Now that the city's <u>workforce</u> is shrinking, CBC asked Calgarians if they just live here, or if Calgary was a part of <u>who</u> they <u>are</u>.

Some people recognized that they were proud to call Calgary home during the flood of 2013 when the city <u>pulled</u> together to help one another. Others said that the <u>vista</u> of the downtown <u>skyline</u> against the <u>backdrop</u> of the mountains made it clear to them that Calgary was home. And there were those who decided to stay in Calgary even after having been <u>laid off</u>.

Cara MacInnis, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary, says that what "is important is the <u>extent</u> to which you make friends or build <u>relationships</u> with people in the city," adding "then...you start to feel you belong to this group."

Dr. Shannon Murray, who teaches <u>culture</u> theory at the University of Calgary, believes that, "Once you say, 'Calgary is my home,' there is a greater civic <u>investment</u>."

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2 MINI-RECESSION ENDS AS GROWTH TURNS POSITIVE, BUT SIGNS OF WEAKNESS REAPPEAR

LISTENING ACTIVITY 4

<u>Statistics</u> Canada reported on Wednesday that the <u>economy</u> is growing again, ending the mild <u>recession</u> that <u>hit</u> the country in the first half of 2015. But the <u>recovery</u> may not be very <u>robust</u>.

Stats Can reported increases in <u>exports</u> due to a low Canadian dollar that makes Canadian products less <u>expensive</u> in foreign <u>markets</u>. There was also growth in <u>household</u> spending.

But TD Bank economist Brian DePratto advises that, "There is good reason to believe that the <u>relatively</u> strong growth of the third <u>quarter</u> will not be repeated."

David Watt, chief <u>economist</u> at HSBC Bank Canada, warns that, "We continue to see an economy <u>struggling</u> to <u>adapt</u> to the <u>decline</u> in oil prices."

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3 UN FINDS ADOLESCENT AIDS RATES UP ALARMINGLY

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 3

Term	Sentences
significantly	The invention of vaccines has significantly prevented the
prevented	transmission of infections.
transmission	
infections	
by half	Due to the recession, the store's income dropped noticeably.
income	There were 10 adolescent employees under the age of 18. Now
noticeably	there are 5. The number of teenage employees has decreased by
adolescent	half. (Noticeably and by half could be interchanged, but are not
	the best answers)
treatment	Because seniors are vulnerable to colds and flu, doctors
effectively	recommend a flu shot as an effective treatment for older patients.
treat	There is really no medicine to effectively treat the common cold.
vulnerable	

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

NUMBER	AGE	YEAR
10	>	
12		✓
19	✓	
20		✓

ANSWER KEY LANGUAGE FOCUS

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 2

s; z; or Iz	VERB	s; z; or Iz	VERB	s; z; or Iz	VERB
S	calls	Z	decides	Iz	kisses
Z	annoys	Z	continues	IZ	acknowledges
Z	arrives	Z	applies	S	kicks
Iz	abolishes	Iz	approaches	Iz	finishes
Z	borrows	Z	outweighs	S	triumphs
S	camps	Z	dies	Z	learns
Iz	changes	S	dislikes	Z	lies
S	cheats	Iz	finishes	S	lifts
S	clicks	S	graduates	S	likes
Iz	closes	S	hates	Z	lives
Z	marries	S	helps	S	laughs
Z	moves	Z	plans	S	looks
Z	opens	Iz	presses	S	loves
IZ	passes	Iz	pushes	Z	remembers
Z	employs	Z	interviews	S	jumps
Z	shows	Z	stays	Z	returns
S	slips	S	stops	Z	succeeds
S	starts	Z	studies	IZ	switches
Z	tries	Iz	uses	S	talked
Z	turns	S	visits	S	walks
S	works	Z	waits	Z	wants
Z	yells	S	zips	Iz	watches
Z	reviews	Iz	massages	Z	zooms

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY 4

The United Nationz Childrenz Fund is alarmed that AIDz-related deaths among 10 to 19 year oldz has increased significantly over the last seven yearz.

There is some good newz, however; UNICEF has found that HIV infectionz among infants have dropped by half since 2012 because mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been noticeably reduced and even prevented in low- and middle-income countriez. A new treatment known as Option B+ effectively treats women with HIV and prevents the transmission of the virus to their babiez during pregnancy, delivery, and through breastfeeding.

With the success of the Option B+ treatment, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake believez that by "reaching the most vulnerable adolescents with effective programz..., we can halve the number of new infectionz among adolescents by 2020."